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Fires in the Mirror Modified Worksheet

1. Describe the stasis in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The play is set in August of 1991 surrounding the Crown Heights, Brooklyn situation that occurred. A seven year old boy was killed by a Jewish man driving a car which led to racial tensions and fights between the African American and Jewish community. Anna Smith interviewed multiple people about the situation, compiled it together, and performed it as a one woman show.

2. What is the intrusion?

The intrusion is that an African American boy was killed by a Jewish driver when he hit the seven year old with his car. This leads to tensions and aggressions between the African American and Jewish community,

3. What is the unique factor?

I think that the unique factor is that only one woman is playing the parts of all of these people. She performed about 26 different people which I thought was very interesting. It would be very hard to give each character individuality since they all have strong feelings about the situation.

4. What is the dramatic question that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will each minority group come together in order to actually get justice and mourn for the little boy?

5. In your opinion what is the most theatrical segment of the video version of the play and explain why do you think it is so powerful?

I thought when she was performing as the father as the little boy was the most powerful scene. It was very heartfelt and emotional. You could really feel the pain that the father was feeling and how greatly he missed his son.

6. List some of the themes of the play.

Difference in race, Physical appearances, Riots

7. Television allows the actress to create mini sets, a variety of lighting effects, and detailed costume pieces for the presentation of her many characters, not to mention graphic footage of the actual events in Crown Heights. This is frankly not possible to accomplish on the stage which requires that the action move rapidly between one scene and the other leaving little if any time for a change of dress, settings, lights, and props. Describe some of the varieties of these production details that struck you as particularly effective.

The use of costumes was very important and made it easy to differentiate each new character. It also kept the show entertaining and fresh. The changing backgrounds also helped to achieve this because it made me feel like each character was performing in a new and different place.